





through which the inert gas flows in the vicinity said irradiation window.

Claim 11 (original): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a temperature sensor is provided in the vicinity of said electron beam irradiation unit, and a flow rate of the inert gas is adjusted based on a temperature measured by said temperature sensor.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 through 11~~, wherein an oxygen concentration meter for measuring an oxygen concentration within said shield container, is provided.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 through 12~~, wherein a vacuumizing device for depressurizing the interior of said shield container is provided.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 through 13~~, wherein said shield container is openable/closable and composed of a metallic material, and has a shield structure for shielding the electron beams emitted from said irradiation window.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 through 14~~, further comprising: a shutter member disposed between said electron beam irradiation unit and the irradiated surface, and movable between an opening position for opening to permit transmission of the electron beams and a closing position for closing to block the electron beams; and

a shutter driving mechanism for moving said shutter member so as to effect switchover to the irradiation and non-irradiation of the electron beams during rotations of said disc-shaped object.

Claim 16 (original): An electron beam irradiation apparatus according to claim 15, wherein





Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a disc-shaped object, involving the use of an electron beam irradiation apparatus ~~according to any one of claims 1 through 16, or an electron beam irradiation method according to any one of claims~~ claim 17 through 24,

further comprising the step of curing at least one of ~~characterized in that~~ a resin layer and/or a surface layer formed on said disc-shaped object ~~is cured~~ by the irradiation of the electron beams.